

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace FIGs. 7A, 7B and 7C with the amended FIGs. 7A and 7B submitted herewith.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 are rejected.

Claims 2 and 6 - 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 3 and 5 are currently amended, and new claim 9 is added. No new matter is added. Support for the amendments may be found, or example, with reference to FIGs. 7A, 7B, 8 and 9.

II. Status of the Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the orthogonal or perpendicular plan chamfered portions of FIG. 7C, and under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because FIG. 7C includes reference characters not described in the specification. Applicants submit a replacement drawing sheet with original FIGs. 7A and 7B, withdraw the replacement drawing sheet formerly submitted for FIG. 7C, and amend the specification to delete all references to FIG. 7C. On this basis, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawing is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Specification as previously amended, in view of previously revised FIGs. 7A - 7C, is objected to for introducing new matter. In the interests of prosecution efficiency, Applicants amend the specification to delete the previous amendments, submit a replacement drawing sheet

including original FIGs. 7A and 7B, and withdraw the replacement drawing sheet formerly submitted for FIG. 7C. On this basis, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner finds that amendments to claim 1 providing that the chamfered portions have “a slope orthogonal to a plane passing between a center axis of the cylindrical body and a center line of the opening” is not supported in the original specification. In the interests of prosecution efficiency, Applicants amend claim 1 to delete this language. On this basis, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,761,327 to Shiga et al. Applicants cancel claims 2 and 6 - 8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 1, 3 and 5 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants claim:

1. A tape cartridge comprising:

a reel hub unit, for winding a tape-shaped recording medium on its periphery, rotatably accommodated in said tape cartridge; and

a leader member for holding and fixing a leading edge of the tape-shaped recording medium,

wherein said leader member includes a pin member having a pair of collar portions between which the tape-shaped recording medium is positioned, and a clamp member fitted in between said collar portions from through an opening so formed in a longitudinal direction of a cylindrical body as to extend to end surfaces on both sides of said cylindrical body, and clamping the tape-shaped recording medium between said pin member and said clamp member itself, and

chamfered portions are provided at edge portions of the opening of said clamp member, said chamfered portions each comprising a planar surface enclosed by three edges, a first of said three edges being formed between the planar surface of the chamfered portion and an end surface of said cylindrical body facing one of said collar portions, the second of said three edges being formed between the planar surface of the chamfered portion and a side surface of said cylindrical body extending in the longitudinal direction of said opening, and the third of said three edges being formed between the planar surface of the chamfered portion and an outer peripheral surface of said cylindrical body.

(Emphasis added).

Shiga discloses a clamp 62 having an inclined guide surface 64 (see, e.g., FIG. 36 of Shiga). The end face 62c in the clamp 62 is obliquely cut on opposite sides of the slit S to form two surfaces 64 (see, Shiga, column 20, lines 35 to 37). Each of the two surfaces 64 is a planar surface bounded by four edges. A first of the four edges is formed between the planar surface and an end surface 62c, a second of the four edges is formed between the planar surface and the slit S, a third of the four edges is formed between the planar surface and an inner surface 62c, and a fourth of the four edges is formed between the planar surface and an outer surface 62a.

In sharp contrast, Applicants' amended independent claim 1 claims a tape cartridge including a clamp member having chamfered portions 86 provided at provided at edge portions of

an opening in the clamp member (see, e.g., Applicants' FIGs. 7A and 7B). In sharp contrast to the clamp 62 of Shiga, Applicants' chamfered portions as claimed are bounded by only three edges. Thus, as Shiga fails to teach each of the limitations of Applicants' invention as claimed by amended independent claim 1, this claim is not anticipated by Shiga and is therefore allowable for at least this reason.

As claims 2 and 6 - 8 are canceled, the rejection as to claims 2 and 6 - 8 is moot. As claims 3 - 5 depend from allowable claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 3 - 5 are also allowable for at least this reason.

VI. New claim

Applicants add new independent claim 9, which claims:

9. A tape cartridge comprising:

a reel hub unit, for winding a tape-shaped recording medium on its periphery, rotatably accommodated in said tape cartridge; and

a leader member for holding and fixing a leading edge of the tape-shaped recording medium,

wherein said leader member includes a pin member having a pair of collar portions between which the tape-shaped recording medium is positioned, and a clamp member fitted in between said collar portions from through an opening so formed in a longitudinal direction of a cylindrical body as to extend to end surfaces on both sides of said cylindrical body, and clamping the tape-shaped recording medium between said pin member and said clamp member itself, and

at least one chamfered portion is provided at an end of said cylindrical body facing one of said collar portions, said at least one chamfered portion comprising a planar end surface of said cylindrical body in proximity to one

of said collar portions, said planar surface being positioned at an acute angle to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical body and extending over a full cross-sectional area of the cylindrical body.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants' new independent claim 9 claims a tape cartridge including a clamp member having at least one chamfered portions 89 comprising a planar end surface of the clamp member (see, e.g., Applicants' FIG. 9). In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed chamfered portion, the inclined guide surfaces 64 disclosed by Shiga do not extend over a full cross-sectional area of the clamp. Thus, as Shiga fails to teach each of the limitations of Applicants' invention as claimed by new independent claim 9, this claim is not anticipated by Shiga and is therefore allowable for at least this reason.

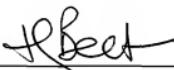
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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